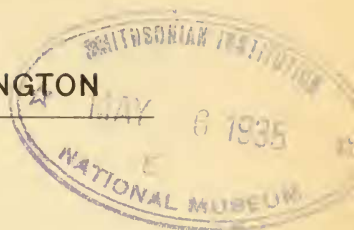


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



REMARKS ON THE AVIAN GENUS EOS.

BY JAMES L. PETERS.

The genus *Eos* was first proposed by Wagler in his "Consp. Psittacorum," published in *Abhandl. k. bay. Akad. Wiss.*, 1, 1832, p. 465-750. Seven species were assigned to the genus by its describer, but no type was fixed. G. R. Gray in 1840 (*List Gen. Bds.*, p. 52) designated the first species "*E. indica*" (= *Psittacus indicus* Gmelin 1788 = *Psittacus histrio* P. L. S. Müller 1776) as type. The other species included by Wagler were, 2 *Psittacus ruber* Gmelin, 3 *Psittacus guebiensis* Gmelin, 4 *Psittacus cochinchinensis* Latham, 5 *Psittacus variegatus* Gmelin, 6 *Psittacus cervicalis* Latham, 7 *Psittacus ornatus* Linné. Of these no. 6 has never been satisfactorily identified and no. 7 was a few years later correctly identified as a *Trichoglossus* in which genus it remains; nos. 3, 4 and 5 have been much shunted about within the genus, sometimes in use for one species, then another, and at one time all three were quoted as synonyms of the later *Psittacus riciniatus* Bechstein; no. 2 was replaced by the earlier *Psittacus borneus* Linné and, as already indicated, *indicus* supplanted by *histrio*.

Bonaparte in *Consp. Av.* 1, 1850, p. 4, named two new species which he referred to *Eos*, *E. cyanogenia* and *E. semilarvata*; the same author a few years later transferred *Lorius cardinalis* G. R. Gray to *Eos*. *Eos cyanostriata* G. R. Gray 1845 was found by Sclater in 1860 to be identical with *Psittacus reticulatus* S. Müller, 1841. Bonaparte's *Chalcopsitta rubiginosa* 1850 was referred to *Eos* by G. R. Gray in 1859. Blyth described *Eos fuscata* in 1858.

Finsch in his "Papageien" 1867-1868 placed practically all of the Lories in the genus *Domicella* Wagler, thereby lumping *Eos* with some other genera not very closely related. Salvadori in *Orn. Pap. delle Mol.*, 1, 1880, p. 245-268, accorded *Eos* full generic standing, the same treatment he later used in Vol. 20, 1891, of the *Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus.*, an arrangement copied by Mivart in *Monog. Loriidae*, 1896, and closely adhered to by Sharpe in *Hand-list of Birds.*, 2, 1900, p. 2, and still followed by Salvadori

again when he briefly reviewed the genus in Wytman's *Genera Avium*, pt. 11, 1910.

Reichenow, *Journ. f. Orn.*, **61**, 1913, p. 401, created a monotypic genus *Oenopsittacus* for *rubiginosa*. His action in removing that species from *Eos* was quite justified, but he should have transferred it to *Trichoglossus* instead of to a monotypic genus. As Rensch has pointed out (*Mitt. Zoöl. Mus. Berlin*, **17**, 1931, p. 528), this bird is a member of the *ornatus-haematod* group in which the zoofulvin of the body plumage has been replaced with zoonerythrin. My studies of *Eos* have convinced me that there are still two more discordant elements in the genus, *cardinalis* and *fuscata*. *Cardinalis*, inhabiting the Solomon Islands and Feni and Nissan Islands east of New Ireland, differs in possessing wider, more rounded rectrices, a more graduated tail and a large apterium at the base of the lower mandible, in these respects agreeing with the genus *Chalcopsitta* of New Guinea. While in some respects linking *Eos* and *Chalcopsitta* it certainly does not do so zoogeographically, and for this reason I do not lump the two, but consider *cardinalis* to be the Solomon Islands representative of the New Guinea *Chalcopsitta*.

Apparently no very serious attempt at the proper allocation of *E. fuscata* has ever been made. Some of the writers of sixty years ago placed it in *Chalcopsitta*, but for the most part it has remained in the genus in which it was originally described, its aberrant characters being recognized by placing it as the last species of the sequence. In spite of my aversion to creating monotypic genera based on long and well known species, I can not see the way clear to retaining *fuscata* in *Eos* any longer, nor do its characters permit its inclusion in any other genus. I therefore propose

PSEUDEOS, gen. nov.

Related to *Eos* Wagler, but tail little more than half as long as wing, the folded wing reaching nearly to its tip; base of lower mandible extensively naked; build relatively stouter; coloration very different. Type, *Eos fuscata* Blyth.

Reallocation of *rubiginosa*, *cardinalis* and *fuscata* is not only the proper procedure on basis of external structure, but is also perfectly logical on zoogeographic grounds. *Eos*, as I now constitute it, is a homogeneous group of 7 species divided into 15 forms extending from the Sangi and Talaut Islands through the entire Molucca group to the Tenimber Islands, one species being represented on the western Papuan Islands, and an endemic species occurring on some of the islands in Geelvink Bay.

Eos cyanogenia Bonap.

Range.—Islands in Geelvink Bay: Biak, Numfor, Manim and Mios Nom.

Eos reticulata (S. Müll.)

Range.—Tenimber Islands. Introduced into the Kei Islands and on Damar.

Eos squamata squamata (Bodd.)

Range.—Western Papuan Islands: Gebe, Waigeu, Batanta and a small island near Misol.

Remarks.—This is the bird for many years known as *Eos wallacei* Finsch. There can be no doubt now that Boddaert's name based on Daubenton's Pl. enlum. no. 684 is referable to an immature bird of this form, though Guéby (=Gebe) may not have been the actual source of the specimen figured.

Eos squamata guenbyensis (Scopoli)

Range.—Northern Moluccas: Morty, Halmahera, Ternate, Tidore, Batjan, etc.

Remarks.—Scopoli based his name on Sonnerat's "petit Lori de Guéby" (Voyage à la Nouvelle Guinée, p. 174, pl. 109). The plate is perfectly identifiable as the adult of the race of *squamata* found on the Moluccas, and I quite agree with Oberholser in his fixation of the type locality as Halmahera (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 31, 1918, p. 48). There is no particular reason to suppose that the bird Sonnerat described and figured came from Gebe—he described several other species at the same time that came either from the western Papuan Islands or the mainland of New Guinea—but on the other hand there is no evidence that his journey extended beyond an island in the Moluccas that he constantly refers to as "Pulo xxx." The French vessels, however, were continually visited by natives bringing specimens of birds and plants, and it was from these sources, rather than exertions of his own, that Sonnerat secured the originals of his drawings and descriptions.

Acceptance of Scopoli's name precludes the use of the following which at one time or another have been applied to this bird:

Psittacus guebiensis Gmelin, 1788, a composite in which both Daubenton's and Sonnerat's species appeared.

Psittacus variegatus Gmelin 1788, based exclusively on Latham who describes a bird that I can not identify as an *Eos*.

Psittacus cochinchinensis Latham 1790.

Psittacus riciniatus Bechstein 1811.

Psittacus cucullatus Shaw 1811.

Lorius isidorii Swainson 1829.

Eos squamata obiensis Rothschild 1899.

Range.—Island of Obi, Moluccas.

Eos squamata insularis Guillemard 1885.

Range.—Weda Island in the Sea of Halmahera.

Eos histrio histrio (P. L. S. Müller) 1776.

Range.—Sangi Islands.

Eos histrio talautensis Meyer & Wigglesworth 1894.

Range.—Talaut Islands.

Eos histrio challengerii Salvadori 1891.

Range.—Nenusa Islands.

Eos bornea cyanonothus (Vieillot) 1818.

Range.—Buru.

Eos bornea bornea (Linné) 1758.

Range.—Amboina.

Eos bornea rothschildi Stresemann 1912.

Range.—Ceram.

Eos bornea bernsteini (Rosenberg) 1863.

Range.—Kei Islands.

Eos semilarvata Bonaparte 1850.

Range.—Mountains of Ceram above 5000 feet.

? *Eos goodfellowi* Ogilvie Grant 1907.

Range.—Island of Obi.

Remarks.—This species was described from two specimens then living in the aviary of Mr. Brook (since deceased) of Hodham, England. The very short and unsatisfactory diagnosis indicates that the bird may possibly be related to *E. semilarvata*; on the other hand, Siebers inclines to the belief that *goodfellowi* is only the immature of *E. squamata obiensis*. Mr. N. B. Kinnear informs me that the types are not in the British Museum, all trace having been lost after the birds passed from the possession of the original owner to other hands.